

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, BDIS, PFOR, PGOV, HA, US

SUBJECT: STAMP SCANDAL: LE MATIN PURSUES ITS "STAMPGATE"

REF: PAUP 668, 635, 619, 576, 568, 552, 551

EGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. LE MATIN RENEWED ITS LIVELY CAMPAIGN TO REVEAL THE FACTS OF THE STAMP INVESTIGATION AND AGAIN URGED PROMPT, IMPARTIAL TRIAL OF THE ACCUSED IN TWO DETAILED FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES MARCH 25 ASSERTING THAT: (A.) JUSTICE SECRETARY JEANTY AND HIS SENIOR STAFFERS MET SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 22, WITH "SEVERAL GOVERNMENT

AND MILITARY PERSONALITIES (COLONELS AND MAJORS)", WITH COMMERCE UNDER SECRETARY BAYARD, AND NOTABLY WITH OUSTED COMMERCE SECRETARY SERGE FOURCAND, WHO REMAINS UNDER DETENTION. IN REPORTING THAT THE "INTERROGATION AND CONFRONTATION" DID NOT END UNTIL ONE A.M. SUNDAY MORNING ARTICLE SUGGESTS FOURCAND, FOR ONE, OBTAINED THE CHANCE HE HAD REPORTEDLY SOUGHT TO REFUTE HIS ACCUSER PERSONALLY.

(B.) THE INVESTIGATION AND SUBSEQUENT TRIAL WILL BE LIMITED TO SPECIFIC ACCUSATIONS BROUGHT BY INJURED PARTIES (INCLUDING BAYARD) AND WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO SPILL OVER TO MATTERS

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UNRELATED TO STAMP SCANDAL. (C.) IN ORDER TO SPARE INNOCENT

DETAINEES AS MUCH GRIEF AS POSSIBLE, PRESIDENT DUVALIER AND JEANTY WANT A PROMPT TRIAL. CHIEF JUDGE OF THE CIVIL TRIBUNAL RAYMOND HAS PLEDGED TO CONVENE TRIAL WHEN HE RECEIVES THE FILES ON THE ACCUSED FROM THE INSTRUCTION JUDGE. GOH HAS THUS FAR INTERROGATED EIGHT OF THE THIRTEEN DETAINEES, AND BY NEXT WEEK'S END PLANS TO CONCLUDE ALL INTERROGATIONS. PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE WILL THEN SEEK INDICTMENTS FROM THE INSTRUCTION JUDGE, AND THOSE DETAINEES FOUND INNOCENT OF INVOLVEMENT WILL BE SET FREE. (D.) DUVALIER HAS ORDERED THE INVESTIGATORS TO DETERMINE THE TRUTH OF THE ACCUSATIONS, PROSECUTE THE GUILTY TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW, BUT PERMIT NO INJUSTICES OR "EXAGGERATIONS" AGAINST FELLOW CITIZENS. MOREOVER, DEFENSE LAWYERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CRIMINAL CODE, WILL HAVE FULL LATITUDE IN COURT.

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2. COMMENT - LE MATIN'S EDITOR DYMAYRIC CHARLIER IS MAKING A VALIANT EFFORT, AT SOME PERSONAL RISK, TO ENSURE THE PROMPT RELEASE OF DETAINEES INNOCENT OF WRONGDOING, BLOCK THOSE EAGER TO ACCUSE FOURCAND OF UNRELATED CRIMES, AND ENSURE A FAIR TRIAL. CHARLIER'S ACCOUNT IMPLIES THAT BAYARD'S ALLEGATIONS AGAINST FOURCAND, HIS FORMER SUPERIOR, REQUIRE FURTHER EXAMINATION AND SUBSTANTIATION. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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